

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
March 21, 2011
Special Called Meeting
MINUTES

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified and notice was posted 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Barnwell County Council met for a Special Called Meeting on March 21, 2011 at 6pm in the Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Travis Black, Vice Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman David Kenner, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, County Administrator Pickens Williams Jr and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Dr. Dave Moody and Mr. Doug Dearolph from the Savannah River Site.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Black and an invocation was given. Motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Introduction of Dr. Dave Moody and Mr. Doug Dearolph

Administrator Williams introduced Dr. Dave Moody, new Manager of the Savannah River Operations Office at the SRS and Mr. Doug Dearolph, Manager for the National Nuclear Security Administration's Savannah River Site Office.

Update on Activities at SRS

Dr. Moody and Mr. Dearolph provided a handout and gave the following update:

- Presently there is a workforce of 13,000 which consists of DOE, NNSA, US Forest Service, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The contractors are SRNS, SRR, Parsons, Wackenhut, Shaw AREVA, and University of Georgia.
- Progress is being made in cleanup of waste contamination, reduction of stored waste, and closure of defense-related nuclear reactors.
- Accomplishments: created over 3,000 glass logs of DWPF waste, disposed of over a million gallons of lower activity waste, decommissioned over 260 facilities, remediated 375 soil and groundwater waste units and will dispose of all legacy transuranic waste by the end of 2012.
- Looking at using H Canyon and K area for stabilizing nuclear materials.
- The Nuclear Nonproliferation focus is to eliminate surplus of US and Russian weapon grade plutonium and surplus of US highly enriched uranium to render the materials unusable for weapons.
- The SRS and the NNSA FY2012 budgets are comparable to the budgets for the FY2010.


During the question and answer portion of the meeting, the following are some of the questions that were presented to Dr. Moody and Mr. Dearolph:

- What is the status of the GNEP program? **There is very little funding going on with GNEP and the program is nearing its end.**
- Will the small reactors be utilizing private money such as SCEG or Georgia Power? **The Secretary of Energy put \$93 million in the FY 12 budget to support the small modular reactors and there are a number of entities involved. That group will provide a report to Congress. It is not outside the realm of possibilities that there would be some matching funds, but at this point the answer is unclear.**
- Is there any proposed location in or around the site to have those reactors built? **The 310 square mile site presents an opportunity for an industrial park area with a buffer and SRS has looked toward some of those areas that give an expansion buffer and have a supply of water. But no siting decisions have been made.**

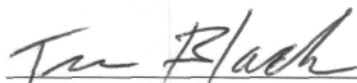
- In light of the recent nuclear emergency in Japan, were there any additional safety precautions being considered at SRS? **Maintaining a buffer area is a key element and is extremely important and SRS has redoubled its commitment to maintaining the buffer area. Also the small reactors are not subject to seismic events and have a much smaller footprint.**
- What are the projected permanent jobs for these facilities on site? **If the goals are met it could be anywhere 13,000 to 15,000.**
- In the past couple of years it appears that the facilities are gyrating toward the Aiken area and Council is interested in having the facilities and the employment gyrating toward the Barnwell area. What can Barnwell County do to encourage some of the future facilities to locate in the Barnwell area? **A key to the future of the site is the research into the backend of the fuel cycle and doing the fuel processing better. Most major commercial entities would like to have their research going on in the vicinity of a production facility. By pushing that research and development with SRS into the backend of the fuel cycle, it would be an enabler of having a commercial entity decide where they are going to site its facility. H Canyon is the only facility in the country that has the flexibility to do this process development on a private scale. A commercial entity would be more likely to locate off site so they would be looking for commercial land just off the site.**
- Barnwell County currently receives an annual PILT which is based on a negotiated value placed on the 121,000 plus acres of condemned property in the site that are in Barnwell County. The County is now being required to have that acreage appraised. Will the FY '11-'12 SRS budget reflect this? **Dr. Moody stated "There will always be money in the site's budget for payments in lieu of taxes".**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council/Admin. Asst.



Travis Black
Council Chairman